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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 116

By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dorene Harris Lowery,
on her selection as 2001 Tennessee Teacher of
the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dorene Harris Lowery is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lowery has recently been selected 2001 Tennessee Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Dorene Harris Lowery received her bachelor's degree from Lee University and earned a master's degree from Trevecca Nazarene University, maintaining a perfect grade point average; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lowery has served with acumen as an elementary school teacher for seventeen exemplary years; she currently serves Michigan Avenue Elementary School as Inclusion Teacher K-5th/Instructional Leader/Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Dorene Harris Lowery is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; an educational innovator, she implemented the tremendously successful annual dinner theatre at Black Fox Elementary, which has been praised by educators and parents and used as a model for similar programs throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, a leader of the utmost ability and merit, Ms. Lowery serves her peers through numerous professional activities; she is president-elect of Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Society, which she also has served as Historian and Chaplain, and is actively involved with the Red Clay Council of the International Reading Association, National Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, and Bradley County Education Association, each of which she has meritoriously served in various leadership capacities; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional educator has long been recognized by her peers for her incomparable excellence; she has previously been honored as District Teacher of the Year, Bradley County Teacher of the Year, Black Fox Elementary Teacher of the Year, Bradley County Education Association Distinguished Classroom Teacher of the Year for McDonald Elementary, and Bradley County Education Association County-Wide Classroom of the Year, and has been nominated for the 2001 National Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lowery truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; Black Fox Elementary Principal Herbert Lackey has praised her "vision that is uncommon among teachers," and fellow educator Dorlene Harris acclaims Ms. Lowery for representing "all that is good and noble in education"; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Ms. Lowery is an active contributor to numerous community activities and charities such as the Warnie Finnell Oncology Center at Bradley Memorial Hospital, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society; an active and devout Christian, she is a charter member of the Westmore Church of God and has

served that congregation as a Sunday School teacher and nursery worker as well as in numerous other capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dorene Harris Lowery truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Dorene Harris Lowery on being chosen as 2001 Tennessee Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.